DC-CAS: PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

Reading Grade 7

The DC-CAS is a standards-based assessment. Based on performance, each student is classified as performing at one of four performance levels: advanced, proficient, basic, or below basic. The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student is able to demonstrate at each performance level.

Below Basic

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as identifying synonyms of known words and using definitions of Latin roots to confirm meanings of words. Students are able to read some seventh grade informational and literary texts and can locate stated details for a specific purpose; identify textual features (e.g., footnotes, subheadings), sequence of events, sensory details, and words that describe characters' feelings and behavior; recognize how setting influences plot; interpret simple figurative language; and make simple predictions based on events and characters.

Basic

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as applying meaning of Latin roots to determine meanings of unfamiliar words. Students are able to read some seventh grade informational and literary texts and can identify main idea in informational text and key ideas in persuasive text, locate information that shows cause/effect, identify character changes, describe events, determine how characters create conflict, interpret figurative language as it relates to plot and character, determine omniscient point of view, and determine the effect of sensory details.

Proficient

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as using context clues to determine meanings of idiomatic expressions, using affixes to determine meaning, and applying context clues to define words with multiple meanings. Students are able to read seventh grade, complex informational and literary texts and can determine author's purpose in an unconventional text (e.g., an interview), connect features of text to genre characteristics, set and confirm purposes for reading, distinguish fact from opinion and cite signal words (e.g., think, believe) in a variety of texts, interpret events, analyze conflicts, identify points of view and their effects on text, make simple inferences about events and authors' purposes, and apply characteristics of genres to details in text.

Advanced

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as interpreting idiomatic expressions, identifying synonyms and antonyms, and applying understanding of forms and functions of words in a sentence. Students are able to read seventh grade, complex informational and literary texts and can provide examples of words that create tone or mood, determine organizational structure of persuasive text, analyze text to determine if author/text purpose is achieved, summarize events in a biographical text, make inferences, evaluate narrative techniques (e.g., flashback), make connections among literary elements, compare and contrast ideas in related genres, synthesize ideas to identify a story's theme, and evaluate use of sensory details and the characteristics of a variety of genres.

DC-CAS: PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

Mathematics Grade 7

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Below Basic

Students may be able to perform computations that applies the order of operations involving powers; know the meaning of square roots; convert between repeating decimals and fractions; know how to find the prime factorization of a given number; solve problems with rational numbers and negative integers; perform appropriate numeric operations, not always in correct sequence, and partially solve real world problems; may be able to identify simple patterns; may be able to identify different types of angles, use scale drawings to represent data and use tools to determine measurements; may be able to determine lowest common multiples and greatest common factors; and may be able to extend a given pattern.

Basic

Students perform computations with whole numbers and fractions, perform appropriate numeric operations in correct sequence, and use strategies to solve real world problems; identify and extend simple patterns, evaluate simple expressions; identify and measure different types of angles; know the total measurement of the angles inside a triangle, and a quadrilateral; be able to find and understand the mean (average), median (middle), mode, and range of a given set of numbers; use scale drawings to represent data and solve measurement problems in one or two dimensions for which the solution is easily recognized and straight forward; use and apply algebraic terminology correctly; and use mathematical language to communicate their thinking and solutions in a clear manner.

Proficient

Students perform computations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals (involving money); perform operations on numbers in correct sequence, create and use simple expressions to solve real world problems; identify and extend patterns; write and solve simple two-step equations; understand and use coordinate graphs to plot simple figures; use properties of lines, triangles, and rectangles to identify and determine angles in figures not drawn to scale; identify three-dimensional figures by their physical appearance; identify and analyze linear relationships between two variables; demonstrate an understanding of how to apply formulas to find measurement of different geometric shapes; select, create, interpret and use different graphical representations of data; and use mathematical language to communicate their thinking and solutions in a clear manner.

Advanced

Students perform computations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals (involving money); perform operations on numbers and parenthetical expressions in correct sequence, create and use simple expressions to model real world problems; identify and extend patterns; write and solve two-step equations; use ordered pairs of numbers to graph, locate and identify points and describe a location on a grid; construct and read drawings or models made to scale; demonstrate an understanding of how to apply formulas to find measurement of different geometric shapes; carry out simple conversions within a system of measurement; compare and analyze features of two- and three-dimensional shapes; list and count the number of possible combinations of objects from a given set; predict the outcomes of simple experiments; select, create, interpret and use different graphical representations of data; solve problems involving proportional relationships; and use mathematical language to communicate their thinking and solutions in a clear manner.